



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

July 25, 2000

EPA invites applications for Fiscal Year 2001 State-Tribal-Local Governments Wetlands Grants. Wetlands grants assist state, tribal and local government agencies in their wetlands protection efforts, as funds can be used to develop new, or refine existing wetlands protection programs. Wetlands grant funds presently cannot be used to fund operational support of wetlands programs.

The wetlands grants are funded by EPA Region 9 Water Division on a competitive basis. We expect to award approximately \$1.6 million in Fiscal Year 2001. In FY2000 we received 76 pre-proposals, invited 36 of those applicants to submit full proposals, and funded 17 projects.

We are using a two step process for funding wetlands grants: 1) a pre-proposal; and 2) a full proposal (including a workplan and signed application). All eligible applicants who wish to have wetlands grant proposals considered must submit a pre-proposal, as described below. EPA Region 9 will ask applicants with the most competitive pre-proposals to submit full proposals. A portion of the full proposals will be selected for funding.

Please read the national wetlands grant guidance and its important appendices at www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/ (click on Partners) to determine if your project is eligible for wetlands grant dollars. If you do not have Internet access, please contact Liliana Christophe (415-744-1972 or christophe.liliana@epa.gov) to receive a copy.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

State, tribal and local (regional, county, and municipal) governments are eligible for the wetlands grants. Interstate and intertribal organizations are eligible for funding. Universities which are legally a part of state government are eligible for funding.

PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES

Priority project types include: 1) developing & implementing comprehensive State-Tribal-Local wetland monitoring programs including the capacity to analyze data, assess biological health of wetlands, estimate wetland losses and gains and wetland function, and 2) developing capacity to ensure ecological effective compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts through the creation of tracking systems to build technical expertise in wetland restoration & creation. Other projects may be eligible if they meet the goals of EPA's national wetland program guidance and are for the development or improvement of a state, local or tribal wetlands program.

SCHEDULE

An applicant's pre-proposal must be postmarked or received by **Friday, September 29, 2000**, by E-mail, fax or regular mail. EPA Region 9 will select the most competitive pre-proposals by Friday, October 27, 2000. Applicants selected for further competition will be asked to submit a more detailed workplan and application by Friday, December 8, 2000. We will evaluate the full proposals, select a portion of them for funding, announce our funding decisions by Friday, March 2, 2001, and award funds by June 30, 2001.

Three copies of pre-proposals should be sent to **Cheryl McGovern** at one of the following addresses.

mail: US EPA, Region 9, Water Division (WTR-4)
75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3919
fax: (415) 744-1078
Email: mcgovern.cheryl@epa.gov

PRE-PROPOSAL FORMAT

Pre-proposals should conform to the following outline, not exceed two pages of text and one map page, and be U.S. postmarked (not private courier) or received by EPA Region 9 by **Friday, September 29, 2000**.

- A. Name and address of the organization requesting the grant;
- B. Name, telephone number, fax number, and Email address (if one exists) for the person preparing the pre-proposal;
- C. Project location (reflect the location on the map attached to your pre-proposal);
- D. Estimated project cost (include EPA\$ and required non-federal match of 25% or more);
- E. Estimated project period (start and completion dates);
- F. Brief project description, including key project milestones and final product(s);
- G. Name(s) of other governmental and non-governmental organizations with whom you will coordinate for this project; and
- H. Explanation of why it is important for this year's wetlands grant funds to be used to fund your project.
- I. For state and local agencies within California only - Describe how your project conforms with the priorities in both the California Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) and the California Wetlands Conservation Policy. Information about the California WMI may be obtained from your local California Regional Water Quality Control Board office (see www.swrcb.ca.gov for office locations, phone numbers, and contacts). The California Wetlands Conservation Policy may be accessed at <http://www.ceres.ca.gov/wetlands/policies/governor.html> or obtained from the California Resources Agency at (916) 653-5656.

STATE-TRIBAL-LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION

Since the purpose of the wetlands grant program is to strengthen effective wetlands protection efforts, it is important that proposals are coordinated with appropriate entities in federal, state, tribal and local governments. Please discuss your pre-proposal with agencies in your state, tribal or local government who are interested in wetland activities.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLANS

Quality Assurance Project Plans must be approved by EPA Region 9 **prior** to a grantee beginning the collection of environmental data or the construction of models. Additional time and resources may be required to gain Quality Assurance Project Plan approval. If a Quality Assurance Project Plan is to be completed during the project period, a task and resources for the activity must be included in the workplan and a condition will be placed on the grant award.

If you have any questions regarding this notice or the wetlands grants program, please contact Liliana Christophe at (415) 744-1972 or at christophe.liliana@epa.gov. This notice is posted on EPA Region 9's webpage at www.epa.gov/region09/.